

NOTE

Recent Collection Records of *Merope tuber* Newman
(Mecoptera: Meropeidae) in Maryland

Little information is available on the seasonal distribution and life history of *Merope tuber* Newman. This is partly due to its presumed nocturnal habits and the lack of systematic collecting for the species. Most specimens reported were collected by overturning rocks or logs or captured in various types of insect traps (Byers, G. W. 1973a. J. Kans. Entomol. Soc. 46: 511-516). The species has been reported from scattered locations in several east coast and midwestern states and Canada (Byers, G. W. 1973b. J. Kans. Entomol. Soc. 46: 362-375; Byers, 1973a) with most records based on a single specimen. Except for one specimen from Pennsylvania (Byers, G. W. 1954. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 47: 484-510; personal communication, Byers, 30 Mar. 1979. "The specimen was taken in a molasses trap set for cave crickets by Dr. T. H. Hubbell, . . . in Lancaster County between 6 and 30 September, 1930."), all records of *M. tuber* from the east coast and Maryland date before 1904 (Barber, H. S. 1904. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 6: 50-51; Byers, 1954, 1973a, b; Caron, D. M. 1967. J. Tenn. Acad. Sci. 42: 73-77). This paper reports new records of *M. tuber* from Maryland and provides additional information on its seasonal distribution.

During a field study on asilid flies in Maryland (Scarborough, A. G. 1974. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 76: 385-396), 26 specimens of *M. tuber* (see below) were captured in a Malaise trap over a three year period. The trap was monitored every three to four days from 15 June to 1 October in 1971 and from 1 May to 1 October in 1972 and 1973. To date this is one of the largest number of *M. tuber* captured at one site and is the only site to be systematically monitored for an extended period. Robert W. Carlson captured 26 or more specimens in a Malaise trap near Ann Arbor, Mich. (unpublished records, personal communication, Byers, 4 May 1979), and James G. Needham captured over 100 one night at a light at Friendly, West Virginia (Carpenter, F. M. 1932. Bull. Brooklyn Entomol. Soc. 27:149). The present study site is located on the Towson State University Campus (Baltimore Quadrangle; 70°32'2"W, 39°23'22"N) in Baltimore County, Maryland. The trap was placed 8 m inside the west margin of a wooded plot and 20 m north of a permanent stream. The immediate area surrounding the trap was dominated by *Quercus borealis* Mich., *Fraxinus americana* L., *Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh., and *Prunus* sp. Ground cover was thick, consisting of several woody shrub and herbaceous plant species and fallen branches and tree trunks. *M. tuber* captured in other localities has also been associated with

woodlands and frequently in woodlands near permanent streams (Byers, 1973a).

Based upon collection records, *M. tuber* is active between June and September (Byers, 1954). However, only two specimens are reported for the month of June, with the rest (>150) reported in July through September (Barber, 1904; Carpenter, 1932; Byers, 1973a). This report shows a similar seasonal range, with all specimens captured between July and September.

Specimens collected. MARYLAND: Baltimore County, Sheppard Pratt Woods, 20-VII-1971 (2 ♀), 6-VII-1971 (1 ♀), 21-VIII-1971 (1 ♀, 2 ♂), 20-IX-1971 (2 ♀), 8-VII-1972 (1 ♂), 21-VII-1972 (3 ♀), 1-VIII-1972 (1 ♀, 2 ♂); 5-VIII-1972 (5 ♀), 15-VII-1973 (1 ♂), 25-VII-1973 (2 ♀), 5-VIII-1973 (1 ♀), 23-VIII-1973 (2 ♂).

Specimens cited herein will be deposited at Towson State University Museum; National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; and Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Thanks are due to Oliver S. Flint, Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution for helpful suggestions concerning *M. tuber*, and George W. Byers, Department of Entomology, University of Kansas, for unpublished collection records and for examining an early draft of this note. The Towson State University Faculty Research Committee is acknowledged for support of this project.

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